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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3 TAG

In re the Application of: A. W. Scherpbier §
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Filed: October 4, 1996 §
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Serial No.: 08\726,377 §
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For: Browser Controller §
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Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Assistant Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

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PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d)

Applicant hereby petitions that the above application be made special and requests advanced examination based on the conditions set forth in M.P.E.P Section 708.02(VIII).

A pre-examination search was made by a professional searcher with respect to the subject matter. The field of the search was as follows:

Class	Subclasses
364	514A
370	260
395	200.03, 200.04, 329, 330, 357, 762, 962

The references discovered in the search are as follows:

U.S. Patent No.

5,623,603

5,649,104

5,608,872

5,530,795

5,634,018

5,608,426

5,440,699

5,583,993

Enclosed are copies of the above relevant references discovered in the search. A detailed discussion of the references pointing out how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references is provided below.

Applicants believe that this search was sufficient to disclose all prior art that would have resulted from a search of the Patent and Trademark Office records by class and subclass.

A check for \$130.00 in payment of the fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(I) is enclosed.

THE INVENTION

The present invention is a method and apparatus that enables a pilot computer to control the Web browser of at least one passenger computer. The user of the passenger computer is instructed to log onto a control site, which downloads an applet, to the passenger computer. If the pilot computer desires to present a particular Web page to both the pilot computer and the passenger computer for, e.g. discussing a page during a conference call, the pilot computer transmits the appropriate URL to the control site, which then retrieves the Web page. Next, the control site sanitizes the page by disabling its hyperlinks, and then the control site

causes the passenger computer's active control to download the sanitized page. Also, the control site filters the sanitized page. Also, the control site filters the page such that the hyperlinks are not disabled, but are rather encoded to point back to the control site, and this filtered page is downloaded to the pilot computer. The pilot computer can then "click" on a hyperlink, causing the control site to decode the hyperlink, retrieve the appropriate Web page, and instruct the passenger computer's active control to download the page after sanitizing the page.

RELATED ART

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,623,603. This invention deals with the prioritizing of transmitted data for a conferencing system. It requires a complicated queuing scheme to retrieve data. In contrast, in the present invention the browser itself is used to retrieve the majority of the data that is presented. The presentation control information in the present invention is sent directly from the client applet to the server and from the server directly to all the participating "passengers". Since the browsers use a separate network connection to retrieve the data to be displayed, it is the browsers that will do detailed prioritization of the conference material. Thus this reference does not teach or suggest the method or apparatus of the present invention.

2. U.S. Patent No. 5,649,104. This patent describes a system that allows remote computers to perform annotation on an image, and replication of the image, on other computer displays. It ties into the operating system and grabs all events (eg. a key press) generated by each person and sends these events to all other participants. The result is a system whereby several people can interact with a single application concurrently. In contrast, in the present invention, even if one considers the browser to be the shared application, a completely different mechanism is used. The present invention does not have to deal with individual

events and send those to everyone else. Instead, in the present invention only the side-effects of browsing are used to tell passengers that a new page needs to be loaded. Thus this reference does not teach or suggest the apparatus or method of the present invention.

3. U.S. Patent No. 5,608,872. This patent describes a system for allowing all remote computers to perform annotation on an image and replicate the annotated image on the displays of other computers. The above comments in regard to U.S. Patent No. 5,649,104 also apply to this patent and are incorporated herein. Thus this reference does not teach or suggest the apparatus or method of the present invention.

4. U.S. Patent No. 5,530,795. This patent deals with a transparent window overlay. In contrast, the present invention is a system whereby a web browser can be used to signal a server that a hyperlink has been selected. The server in turn then communicates this event to other browsers by utilizing some executable content that was previously loaded on these other browsers. Thus this reference does not teach or suggest the apparatus or method of the present invention.

5. U.S. Patent No. 5,634,018. This reference teaches a remote presentation system. It does not describe a system such as the present invention that utilizes a server, nor does it teach a system that uses browsers for either the control or display of information. Thus this reference does not teach or suggest the apparatus or method of the present invention.

6. U.S. Patent No. 5,608,426. This reference is concerned with the management of a palette for application sharing in collaborative systems. In particular, it deals with the details of sharing, converting, and transferring images with their color palettes. In contrast, the present invention relies on the individual browsers to transfer and render images. Thus this reference does not teach or suggest the apparatus and method of the present invention.

7. U.S. Patent No. 5,440,699. This reference is concerned with a system by which a remote computer receives screen images from and transmits commands to a host computer. It is basically a hardware solution to the problem of the remote control and emulation of a PC. It does not teach a browser controller and hence does not teach or suggest the apparatus or method of the present invention.

8. U.S. Patent No. 5,583,993. This reference deals with a system for synchronously sharing data among computers. It describes a form of shared screen space, similar to a shared whiteboard. It does not deal with a browser at all and thus does not teach or suggest the apparatus or method of the present invention.

ANALYSIS OF THE RELATED ART

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over the prior art under 35 USC Sections 102 and 103. None of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the following computer program device:

A computer program device comprising:

a computer program storage device readable by a digital processing system;
and

a program means on the program storage device and including instructions executable by the digital processing system for performing method steps for enabling a first computer to cause at least one second computer to display a preselected page from a computer network by transmitting, from the first computer to a control site in the computer network, a request for a predetermined page, the method steps comprising:

- a. retrieving the predetermined page;
- b. if the predetermined page includes pointers to other pages in the network, (1) encoding the pointers to thereby render a first page wherein the pointers, when selected by a computer user viewing the page, direct the user's

computer to the control site, and (2) disabling the pointers from the predetermined page to thereby render a second page;

- c. transmitting the first page to the first computer; and
- d. transmitting the second page to the second computer.

Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable along with Claim 1 for the reasons provided above.

Applicant submits that Claim 9 is clearly patentable over the prior art under 35 USC Sections 102 and 103. None of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the following steps:

A computer-implemented method for allowing a pilot computer to cause a passenger computer including a passenger Web browser to display a predetermined Web page, comprising the steps of:

at the pilot computer, transmitting the uniform resource locator (URL) of the predetermined page to a control site, the control site being a member of the Web, such that the control site can retrieve the predetermined page;

at the passenger computer, transmitting a code to the control site and, if the code is valid, receiving in response thereto an active control from the control site; and

causing the active control to cooperate with the passenger Web browser to download the predetermined Web page from the control site.

Claims 10-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 9 and are submitted to be allowable along with Claim 9 for the reasons provided above.

Applicant submits that Claim 15 is clearly patentable over the prior art under 35 USC Sections 102 and 103. None of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the following browser controller:

A system for allowing a pilot computer to cause a passenger computer including a passenger Web browser to display a predetermined Web page,

comprising:

at the pilot computer, logic means for transmitting the uniform resource locator (URL) of the predetermined page to a control site, the control site being a member of the Web;

at the control site, logic means for retrieving the predetermined page;

at the passenger computer, logic means for transmitting a code to the control site;

at the control site, logic means for determining whether the code is valid, and if so, transmitting in response thereto an active control to the passenger computer; and

logic means for causing the active control to cooperate with the passenger Web browser to download the predetermined Web page from the control site.

Claims 16-20 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 15 and are submitted to be allowable along with Claim 15 for the reasons provided above.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims presented is clearly patentable over the prior art and, therefore, favorable action on this Petition is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Donald L. Wenskay

Reg. No. 32,661

File No. 09201-001001

PATENT

Donald L. Wenskey Attorney at Law
1175 Avenida Esteban
Encinitas, CA 92024
(760) 436-4818.